THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir. Exemption from basic excise duty has been granted on excess sugar produced in a factory during the period 1st October to 30th November, 1986 as compared to the corresponding periods of the previous two sugar years.

(b) The excess production can be computed only after the 30th November, 1986. The extent to which the sugar production is increased would depend on several variable factors including availability of sugar cane and percentage of recovery. It is not possible to give a reliable estimate regarding the additional production of sugar during the early crushing season attributable solely to incentive provided by way of the excise duty concession.

Representation from Central Government employees against Pay Commission's recommendations

*212. SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that certain categories of Central Government employees have represented to Government for reconsideration of their pay scales as recommended by the Fouth Pay Commission and accepted by Government; and

(b) if so, what action Government propose to take in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EXPENDITURE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI B. K. GADHVI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Such representations are examined by the administrative Ministry/Department or the cadre controlling authority on merits taking into account all relevant factors and in consultation with, if necessary, the Ministry of Finance.

Reginoal Wage Policy

*213. SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have a proposal under their consideration to evolve a regional wage policy; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P. A. SANGMA): (a) and (b) The Central Government had circulated draft guidelines on regional minimum wages to all the State Governments/Union Territories and the Planning Commission on 6th May, 1986 for comments. As per these guidelines the entire country is proposed to be divided into six regions. Regional Minimum Wage Advisory Boards are proposed to be set up in each region to fix/revise regional minimum wages employment wise for selected employments within a region. The Boards may select such employments which are spread over more than two states in a region or in which wide-differential causes flight of industry/business from one State to another.

Subsidy for replantation of rubber

*214. SHRI V. GOPALSAMY:
SHRI T. R. BALU:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to stop subsidy for replantation of rubber in certain parts of the country; if so, what are the details thereof;

(b) what are the reasons therefor;

(c) what is the rate of subsidy being given to farmers at present and what are the criteria followed for the purpose; and

(d) whether Government popose to reconsider the move to stop subsidy for replantation?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. SHIV SHANKAR): (a) From 1985-86 subsidy for replantation is available to growers owning upto 5 hecs. of plantation in the traditional areas. However, for the non-traditional areas, the subsidies are available for all the growers.

(b) Budgetary constraints have made it obligatory to confine the subsidies to small growers in the traditional areas.